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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety

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Criminal History Systems Board

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
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Massachusetts
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MISSION

Created in 1972 by the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Act (*M.G.L. c.6, s.167-178B*), and governed by a eighteen member board of representatives of the criminal justice community, the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) operates the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). This fully computerized information system consists of an advanced, enterprise server, a statewide, frame relay-based, data communications network, and 3,500+ data terminals, PCs, and Mobile Data Terminals/Computers. The CJIS operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The CHSB is also responsible for the administration of the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) statute. Accordingly, the CHSB disseminates criminal record information to the criminal justice community and to the general public.

Criminal Justice Information System

The CJIS is a computer based digital highway providing 24-hour access to critical criminal justice data.

- 3,500+ PCs and data terminals generate more than 850,000 messages per day.

- users include 300 local Police Departments as well as State, County, and Federal criminal justice agencies.

- provides on-line access to state and national wanted/missing person/stolen property files, the Sex Offender Registry, in-state criminal record files, the FBI's NCIC 2000, the Registry's ALARS, INTERPOL, and the registration, license, and criminal record files of the 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

C.O.R.I. Unit

The CORI Unit processes requests for criminal record data from state, county, and municipal government agencies. Information is also provided to Board approved non-criminal justice agencies such as schools, day care centers, home health aides and youth athletic coaches. Individuals may also obtain a copy of their personal criminal record from the CORI Unit.

- processes 60,000-70,000 requests per month

- assists in correcting inaccurate criminal records; investigates reports of improper access to, or dissemination of, CORI

- provides legal assistance and advice on matters related to the CORI law to police, prosecutors, judges and the public

Field Services Unit

The Field Services Unit (FSU) is the CHSB's point of contact for all CJIS users for access to information and assistance. This nine person unit provides training, auditing, and data quality services, acts as the CJIS "Help Desk", and is available during normal business hours.

The Director of the FSU serves as the state's Control Terminal Officer (liaison) to both the FBI and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), Inc. It is through this function that the Commonwealth receives important information from the federal government, other states, Canada, and INTERPOL.

Firearms Records Bureau

The FRB maintains a database on CJIS that allows law enforcement to access information regarding licenses to carry firearms (LTCs) and FID cards, gun dealer licenses, machine gun licenses and all records of firearms sales by gun dealers occurring within the state. As a result, law enforcement agencies have immediate access to more than 1.4 million LTC/FID records and data on over 800,000 gun sale transactions. The FRB processes 3,500 - 4,500 gun transactions and firearms licenses including suspensions and revocations per week.

Sex Offender Registry

On September 10, 1999, a new Sex Offender Registry law became effective. The CHSB has created an automated database of information relative to sex offenders that is available to law enforcement. The SOR will oversee a mail-in registration process for approximately 17,000 sex offenders and will develop regulations governing the classification of all sex offenders and the dissemination of information to the public about each sex offender.

Victim Services

The Victim Services Unit provides post-conviction assistance to victims of crime. Services provided by the Unit include the processing of CORI certification applications and the processing of certifications under the Victim Access to Additional Information Program (M.G.L. c.6, s.178A). Information, resources, referrals, crisis intervention, and safety planning assistance, are facilitated via outreach and training to criminal justice agencies and victim organizations.

Recent Achievements

Y2K testing/compliance

New CJIS Mainframes

On-line access to Firearms Record data

CORI E-Mail & Automation Projects

Sex Offender Registry Database

Linking of criminal history data and fingerprint image via Store and Forward technology pilot

Parole Board multiple mainframe interface via the CHSB data center

Criminal history record matching for DTA, Child Support Enforcement and D.O.R programs

Ongoing Projects

Federal III (Interstate Identification Index) Participation

MA firearm renewals for all FIDs and LTCs

Automation of microfilm CARI files

CJIS access for all MA police departments

NCIC 2000

Software Re-engineering

PC based technologies

Domestic Violence Reporting System

WAN connectivity to other state agencies

MA Instant Check System for Firearm Sales

For information or assistance, please call the following at (617) 660-4600:

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